

DISTINGUISHED MEMBER OF THE SPECIAL FORCES REGIMENT



Staff Sergeant Ronald J. Shurer II
U.S. Army, Medal of Honor

Inducted June 7, 2019



Staff Sergeant Ronald J. Shurer II was born in Fairbanks, Alaska. He graduated from high school in 1997, earned a bachelor's in business economics, then he enrolled in a master's program at Washington State. Following the events of 9/11, he followed in the footsteps of his great grandfather, grandfather and parents and joined the U.S. Army in 2001.

Assignments as a Medical Sergeant included the 601st Area Support Medical Company, 261st Area Medical Battalion, and the 44th Medical Command. He joined Special Forces in 2004. While serving with Operational Detachment Alpha 3336, 3rd Special Forces Group (Airborne) in Afghanistan, his team navigated through a valley, and received a series of sniper fire, rocket-propelled grenades and machine gun fire forcing them into a defensive fighting position. It was during this mission that Staff Sgt. Shurer earned the Medal of Honor. His citation reads:

“Staff Sgt. Ronald J. Shurer II distinguished himself by acts of gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty on April 6, 2008, while serving as a Senior Medical Sergeant, Special Forces Operational Detachment Alpha 3336, Special Operations Task Force-33, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Staff Sgt. Shurer was part of an assault element inserted by helicopter into a location in Afghanistan. As the assault element moved up a near vertical mountain toward its objective, it was engaged by fierce enemy machine gun, sniper and rocket-propelled grenade fire. The lead portion of the assault element, which included the ground commander, sustained several casualties and became pinned down on the mountainside. Staff Sgt. Shurer and the rest of the trailing portion of the assault element were likewise engaged by enemy machine gun, sniper and rocket-propelled grenade fire. As the attack intensified, Staff Sgt. Shurer braved enemy fire to move to an injured Soldier and treat his wounds. Having stabilized the injured Soldier, Staff Sgt. Shurer then learned of the casualties among the lead element. Staff Sgt. Shurer fought his way up the mountainside, under intense enemy fire, to the lead element's location. Upon reaching the lead element, he treated and stabilized two more Soldiers. He then noticed two additional wounded Soldiers under intense enemy fire. With complete disregard for his own life, he again moved through enemy fire to treat and stabilize a Soldier's severely wounded arm. Staff Sgt. Shurer continued to brave withering enemy fire to get to the other Soldier's location in order to treat his lower leg, which had been almost completely severed by a high-caliber sniper round. Staff Sgt. Shurer began to evacuate the wounded; carrying and lowering them down the sheer mountainside. While moving down the mountain, Staff Sgt. Shurer used his own body to shield the wounded from enemy fire and debris caused by danger-close air strikes. Reaching the base of the mountain, Staff Sgt. Shurer set up a casualty collection point and continued to treat the wounded. With the arrival of the medical evacuation helicopter, Staff Sgt. Shurer, again under enemy fire, helped load the wounded into the helicopter. Having ensured the safety of the wounded, Staff Sgt. Shurer then regained control of his commando squad and rejoined the fight. He continued to lead his troops and emplace security elements until it was time to move to the evacuation landing zone for the helicopter. Staff Sgt. Shurer's actions are in keeping with the finest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon himself, Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force-Afghanistan, Special Operations Command Central and the United States Army.”

Staff Sgt. Shurer separated from the Army in 2009 and now works with the U.S. Secret Service Counter Assault Team, a tactical team that works to suppress, divert and neutralize any coordinated attack against the President of the United States.